

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20-39. (Not entered)

40. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a scFv multimer with thrombopoietin (TPO)-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating myeloproliferative leukemia virus oncogene (mpl) receptor, the method comprising

- (a) identifying an antibody that binds to mpl receptor;
- (b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence;
- (c) producing a covalently linked scFv multimer comprising two copies of said light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two copies of said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers;
- (d) testing the covalently linked scFv multimer for said TPO-like agonistic activity; ~~and~~
- (e) ~~selecting~~ demonstrating that the covalently linked scFv multimer ~~if it binds to mpl~~ receptor and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of said light chain

variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b); and

(f) selecting the covalently linked scFv multimer.

41. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a single-chain antibody with TPO-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating mpl receptor, the method comprising

(a) identifying an antibody that binds to mpl receptor;

(b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence;

(c) producing a single-chain polypeptide comprising two or more copies of the light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two or more copies of the heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers;

(d) testing the single-chain polypeptide for said TPO-like agonistic activity; ~~and~~

(e) ~~selecting demonstrating that~~ the single-chain polypeptide ~~if it binds to mpl receptor~~ and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of said light chain variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b); and

(f) selecting the single-chain polypeptide.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the single-chain polypeptide of step (c) is a sc(Fv)₂.

43. - 48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the antibody of (a) is human or humanized.

50. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the antibody of (a) is human or humanized.

51. - 53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the sequence of the sc(Fv)₂ comprises, in order: the heavy chain variable region sequence, a first linker sequence, the light chain variable region sequence, a second linker sequence, the heavy chain variable region sequence, a third linker sequence, and the light chain variable region sequence.

55. 58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a single-chain polypeptide with enhanced TPO-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating mpl receptor, the method comprising

- (a) identifying an antibody that binds to mpl receptor;
- (b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence;
- (c) producing a single-chain polypeptide comprising two or more copies of a humanized version of said light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two or more copies of a humanized version of said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers;
- (d) testing the single-chain polypeptide for said TPO-like agonistic activity;~~and~~
- (e) ~~selecting~~ demonstrating that the single-chain polypeptide ~~if it binds to mpl receptor~~ and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody

exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of the humanized version of said light chain variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of the humanized version of said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b); and

(f) selecting the single-chain polypeptide.